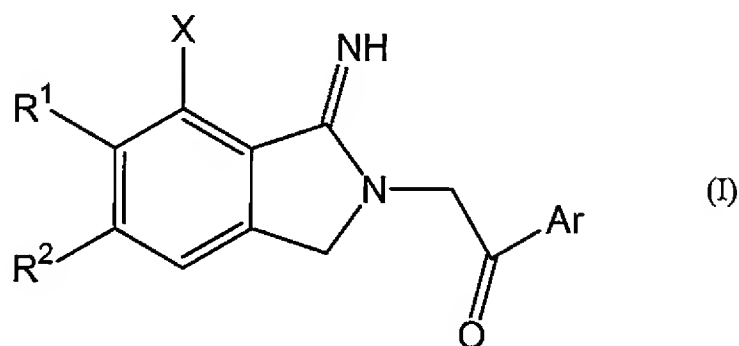
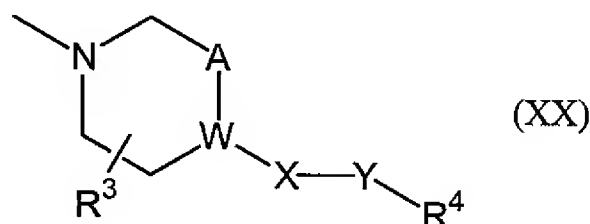


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:  
 a benzamidine derivative represented by the following formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof; and  
 at least one type of electrolyte selected from the group consisting of halide salts of alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal and alkaline metal salts or alkaline earth metal salts of perchloric acid:



~~[wherein~~ wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same as or different from each other and each represents a hydrogen atom, a methoxy group or an ethoxy group, X represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and Ar represents a phenyl group that may be substituted with one or not less than two substituents selected from the group consisting of a methyl group, an ethyl group, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a *t*-butyl group, a morpholinyl group, or a substituent represented by the following formula (XX),



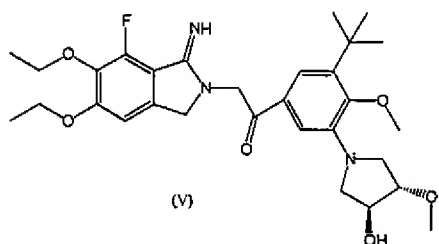
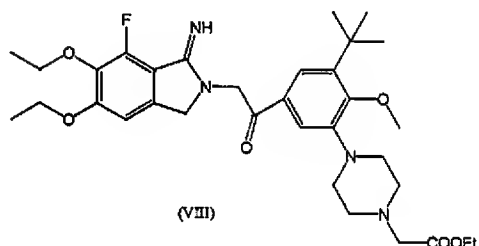
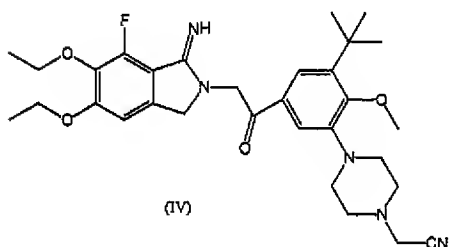
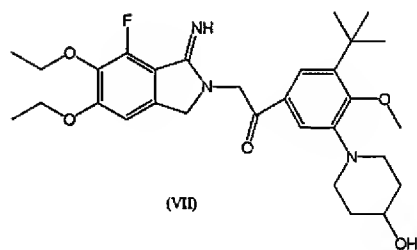
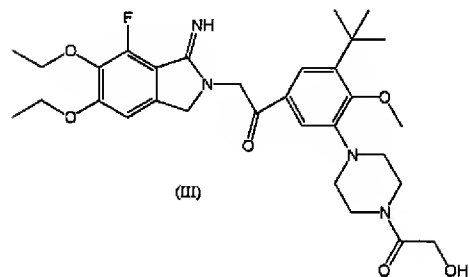
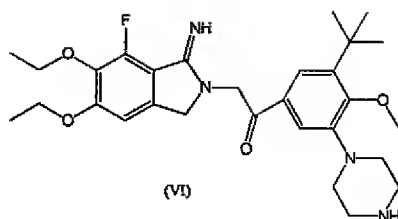
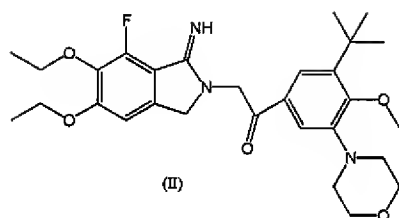
wherein W represents CH or a nitrogen atom, A represents CH<sub>2</sub> or a single bond, R<sup>3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or OR<sup>5</sup>, X represents CH<sub>2</sub>, an oxygen atom, a single bond or a carbonyl group, Y represents a single bond or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, OR<sup>6</sup>, a cyano group or COOR<sup>7</sup>, and R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> represent a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group.] group.

2. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> represent an ethoxy group, and the X represents a fluorine atom.

3. (Original) A composition comprising:

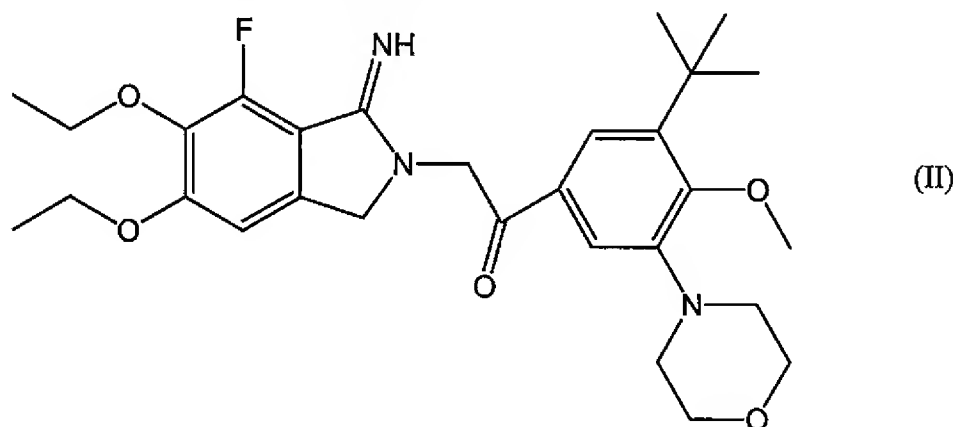
a benzamidine derivative represented by any one of the chemical formulae (II) to (VIII) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof; and

at least one type of electrolyte selected from the group consisting of halide salts of alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal and alkaline metal salts or alkaline earth metal salts of perchloric acid:



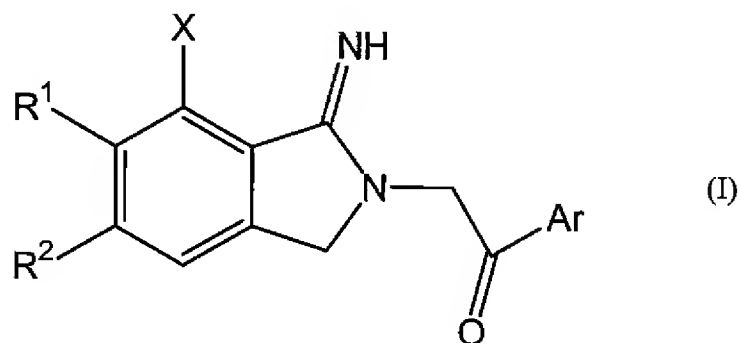
4. (Original) The composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein an amount of the electrolyte based on one part by weight of the benzimidine derivative or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof is from 0.5 parts by weight to 30 parts by weight.

5. (Original) The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the benzamidine derivative or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof is a hydrobromic acid salt of the benzamidine derivative represented by the following chemical formula (II):

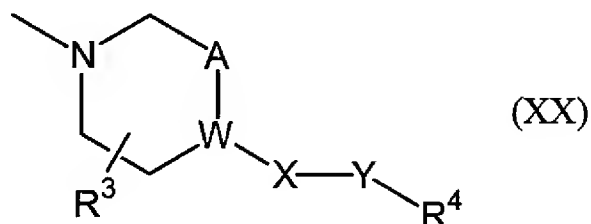


6. (Withdrawn) A method for stabilizing a benzamidine derivative, comprising the step of:

adding to a benzamidine derivative represented by the chemical formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, at least one type of electrolyte selected from the group consisting of halide salts of alkaline metal or alkaline earth metal and alkaline metal salts or alkaline earth metal salts of perchloric acid



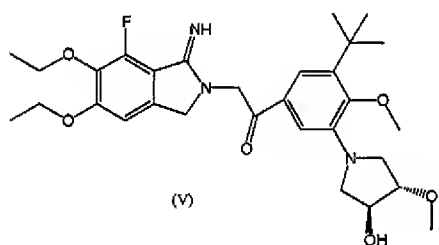
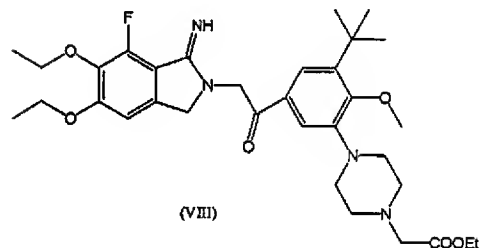
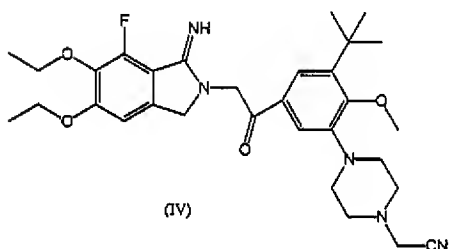
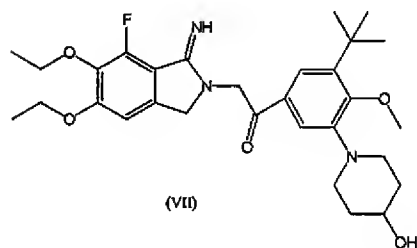
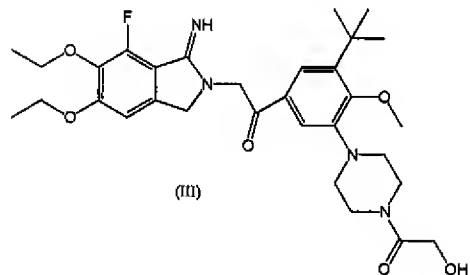
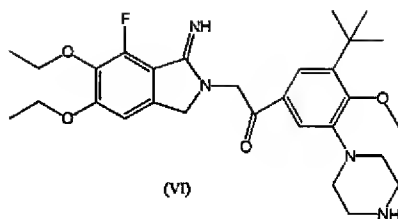
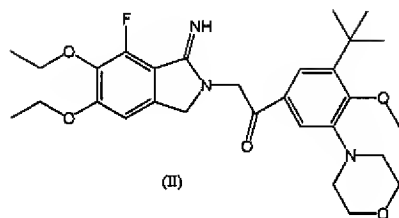
[wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are the same as or different from each other and each represents a hydrogen atom, a methoxy group or an ethoxy group, X represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom, and Ar represents a phenyl group that may be substituted with one or not less than two substituents selected from the group consisting of a methyl group, an ethyl group, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a *t*-butyl group, a morpholinyl group, or a substituent represented by the following formula (XX),



wherein, W represents CH or a nitrogen atom, A represents  $CH_2$  or a single bond,  $R^3$  represents a hydrogen atom or  $OR^5$ , X represents  $CH_2$ , an oxygen atom, a single bond or a carbonyl group, Y represents a single bond or a  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl group,  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom,  $OR^6$ , a cyano group or  $COOR^7$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  represent hydrogen atoms or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl groups.].

7. (Withdrawn) A method for stabilizing a benzamidine derivative, comprising the step of:

adding to a benzamidine derivative represented by any one of the chemical formula (II) to (VIII) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, at least one type of electrolyte selected from the group consisting of halide salts of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal and alkali metal salts or alkaline earth metal salts of perchloric acid:



8. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 6 or 7, wherein an amount of the electrolyte based on one part by weight of the benzimidine derivative is from 0.5 parts by weight to 30 parts by weight.